

Philosophy On Christian Education  
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The goal of **Christian Education** is for students to know God and to know oneself so that they are reconciled to God and, in turn, become agents of reconciliation to the World. Christian education allows students to be fortified in truth, identify their place in the body of Christ and then pointedly use their God-given talents to affect positive change in the world. A Christian school is called to pull together all stakeholders towards this mission. There are a limited number of Christian schools in America that provide an exemplary education while adhering to traditional Christian values and beliefs. Christian Education seeks to engage students in learning that is rooted in worship towards God and there is no reason that Christian learning institutions should not be graduating the brightest and most inspiring students in the world.

**Parents** are the primary educator of their student(s). This is both Biblical and practical. They should remain committed to providing a stable, encouraging environment at home that fosters student growth and learning. Parents are encouraged to partner with faculty and staff by being highly involved in educational matters such as student schedules, attendance, behavior, dress, grades and co-curricular activities. Parents are a vibrant part of the community and are key contributors to the overall culture who model learning and growth behaviors to their students.

Parents invest a great deal of trust in regards to the care and education of their student. In order for a dynamic partnership to exist, it is vital to have consistent parent communication built on mutual trust and respect and grounded in the shared desire for the success of the student. Parents' voices and opinions are valued and considered foundational to the success of their student and the long-term success of the school.

Parents are learners along with their students. A vibrant school provides training for parents as well as students and it is the role of the parent to access training where needed.

**Students** are first and foremost a person made in the image of God. They are to be known, loved and liked by their parents and teachers. They deserve the utmost respect. By design, they are inherently curious and desire to learn and grow. Their work and motivation is one of worship and not competition. They make up the body of Christ, and in so doing, they each have unique strengths to maximize and weaknesses to overcome, both for the glory of God. Because they are sinful, they need guidance and structure from their teacher and parents in order to mature in a healthy manner.

Students cannot be molded into a prescribed "absolute man", but are temporary guests who bring a full set of emotions and experiences into class each day. It is the job of the teacher to develop the students mental and rational capacities. One of the greatest problems in education is that solutions are offered without a presence of a question. Children are told what to believe instead of how to think critically. They are not free to ask questions and establish answers. Instead, answers are handed to them in notes and lectures. Education is focused more on behavior and test scores than on the overall health of the students. This creates a lack of internal authenticity (truth) which is needed in order to have real relationships with God and people. In the end, the student is responsible for his/her choices and the ability to reason will guide their values, ethics and passions in life.

**Teachers** create the atmosphere. They are the model. They are the energy. They are the transformers that positively or negatively change the trajectory of each student in their classroom. A teacher makes or breaks the year for the student. It is vital that they live in the power of the Holy Spirit, have a passion for their curriculum, and uniquely invest in each student. Due to the fact that students emulate their teacher, it is vital that teachers have a compelling and vibrant walk with God that is attractive to students.

Teaching is not just an academic pursuit but it is a calling of excellence that stems from a heart of worship towards God in a way that engages one's mind, accesses one's heart, and uses one's hands and feet in service. They approach the curriculum as an artist looking for fresh ways to demonstrate objective reality in new and

inviting ways to students. Teachers are not only masters of their curriculum, but they see each student as a unique individual to be cared for and known.

Students unavoidably learn from the **atmosphere** at home and at school. Children learn good habits or bad habits from their environment. Students naturally pick up the character qualities of their parents and teachers. It is important at school that students are in an environment of respect, self-discipline, responsibility, learning and growth.

The **curriculum** is the engine of education. What is put in front of students should inspire and engage students towards learning and growth. It is vital that students interact with material that is rich in ideas. It engages learners with abundant, challenging, and transformative questions, skills, assignments, projects, and experiences with the goal of adjusting their thoughts, emotions, and decision-making abilities to the objective reality that exists independent of the learner. This objective reality is better than any reality one creates out of one's own desires, wants or interests. The curriculum is an instrument by which students can enter into a sense of awe, wonder and worship for the Creator because He is present in all disciplines and subject matters.

Curriculum is also designed to build skill, habit and practice in foundational areas such as reading, research, critical thinking, writing, oral communication and executive functioning. These skills are the springboard by which students can best access rigorous material and apply themselves to solve real and complex projects and problems. Practically speaking, the foundation to learning is the development of good habits and learning rituals combined with desire to grow.